



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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REVIEWED BY  
DOCKETING

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|                    |             |                       |                     |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| APPLICATION NUMBER | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED APPLICANT | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|

09/156,394 09/18/98 YAMADA

M 0038-0294P

EXAMINER

002292 QM02/0412  
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH  
PO BOX 747  
FALLS CHURCH VA 22040-0747

ATTACHMENT PAPER NUMBER

18

3743  
DATE MAILED:

04/12/01

### INTERVIEW SUMMARY

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Christopher Atkinson (3)

(2) Paul Lewis (4)

Date of Interview 4/12/01

Type:  Telephonic  Personal (copy is given to  applicant  applicant's representative).

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted:  Yes  No If yes, brief description:

Agreement  was reached.  was not reached.

Claim(s) discussed: 21 and 3

Identification of prior art discussed: Japanese Reference (771) + Dinh.

Description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: *discussed adding language to claim 21 stating the connecting section is a curved/expanded outwardly, relative to the collar axis. This appears to overcome the applied prior art. Also, if the claim only recites "a straight line" and deletes "a curved line expanded outwardly"; this also appears to overcome the applied prior art. These proposed amendments would require further consideration. Discussed adding language to claims reciting the outer perimeter forms a triangle or a tetragon overcomes the Dinh reference.*  
(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments, if available, which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments which would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

1.  It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview.

Unless the paragraph above has been checked to indicate to the contrary, A FORMAL WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION IS NOT WAIVED AND MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a response to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW.

2.  Since the Examiner's interview summary above (including any attachments) reflects a complete response to each of the objections, rejections and requirements that may be present in the last Office action, and since the claims are now allowable, this completed form is considered to fulfill the response requirements of the last Office action. Applicant is not relieved from providing a separate record of the interview unless box 1 above is also checked.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an attachment to another form.

FORM PTOL-413 (REV.1-96)

CHRISTOPHER ATKINSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER